

selected from the group consisting of glycerol and glyceraldehyde at a concentration of 20-500 mM;

- (b) selecting a Lactobacillus reuteri strain which produces  $\beta$ -hydroxypropionaldehyde under anaerobic conditions and in the presence of glycerol or glyceraldehyde;
- (c) applying to the surface of the food item a solution containing about  $10^9$  cells per gram of food item of said Lactobacillus reuteri strain; and
- (d) placing the food item under conditions wherein said cells are under anaerobic conditions and said strain of Lactobacillus reuteri produces  $\beta$ -hydroxypropionaldehyde as a detectable end-product.

Please replace claim 42 with new claim 47 to change "treating" to --decreasing the number of-- as follows:

EG 47. A method of decreasing the number of non-Lactobacillus reuteri bacteria so that the number of said non-Lactobacillus reuteri bacteria present after treatment is less, by a multi-log factor, than the number of bacteria in an untreated control, comprising:

- (a) adding a precursor substance, said precursor substance selected from the group consisting of glycerol and glyceraldehyde at a concentration of 20-500 mM;
- (b) selecting a bacterial strain which produces  $\beta$ -hydroxypropionaldehyde as a detectable end-product under anaerobic conditions and in the presence of glycerol or glyceraldehyde;
- (c) adding cells of said Lactobacillus reuteri strain, the number of added cells of